

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA  
APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
February 17, 2015

The School Board of Alachua County, Florida, met in regular session duly called at 6 p.m. in the Boardroom, 620 East University Avenue, Gainesville, Florida. Present were: Leanetta McNealy, Chairman; Eileen Roy, Vice-Chairman; April Griffin, Rob Hyatt, and Gunnar Paulson, members; Owen Roberts, Superintendent; and David Delaney, Board Attorney.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman McNealy, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA      Motion by Mrs. Griffin      Seconded by Mrs. Roy

Moved to adopt the agenda for the February 3, 2015, School Board meeting, as presented.

Dr. McNealy stated that Consent Agenda Item G.6., Budget Amendment, is being pulled for comment/discussion.

The question was called.      Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

APPROVAL OF MINUTES      Motion by Dr. Paulson      Seconded by Mr. Hyatt

Moved to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2015, School Board meeting, as presented.

The question was called.      Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

RECOGNITION –  
MR. HERSHEL LYONS,  
DEPUTY  
SUPERINTENDENT

This meeting was the last for Mr. Hershel Lyons, Deputy Superintendent, as he moves on to become the new Chancellor for K-12 Public Education at the Department of Education in Tallahassee. Dr. Roberts spoke highly of Mr. Lyons and wished him well in his new role, as he presented him with a remembrance picture of Kirby-Smith, drawn by Head Custodian Keith Brown.

Mr. Lyons conveyed his thanks and his feelings about his family, this district, and the many who have greatly impacted his life with their support.

BOARD MEMBER/  
SUPERINTENDENT  
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Griffin:

- Commended the Science Fair, the students, their projects, and Dr. McNealy’s great speech.
- Hawthorne Education Foundation students have benefited by block scheduling; thanked Hawthorne for thinking out of the box.

Mrs. Roy:

- Science Fair, particularly a project of origami modules that formed dome structures, demonstrating the possibilities to the field of construction. Congratulations to all.
- The Volunteer Luncheon was an excellent event to recognize our volunteers.

Mr. Hyatt:

- Gave compliments to the BHS chorus for the wonderful music at the Volunteer Luncheon.
- Wished Mr. Lyons the best in Tallahassee.
- Announced upcoming comedy performances by the Woman’s Club, proceeds to be used for local school projects.

Dr. Paulson thanked Mrs. Roy for encouraging him to go to the System of Care meeting at the Police Department, stating it was very beneficial.

Dr. Roberts:

- Thanked Karen Clarke and her team for the excellent Curriculum presentation, held prior to this meeting.
- Was very impressed with the quality of Science Fair projects and congratulated all our outstanding young scientists.
- Thanked Liz Starke and her staff for the wonderful Volunteer Luncheon and thanked the sponsors: Florida Credit Union and Rotary Club of Gainesville.
- Looks forward to honoring Teachers of the Year from all the schools, including the three finalists: Susan Bowles, Chiles Elementary; Jessica Campbell, Oak View Middle; and Melissa Bozeman, Buchholz High.
- Stated that thoughts and prayers are with the family of Andrew Mickle, who recently passed away. Mr. Mickle was a former ACPS educator and a legend in the community.

Dr. Paulson reported the passing of longtime GHS employee Hazel Chambers and the passing of former student football player Rob Harris.

Dr. McNealy:

- Reported the passing of Eugene Brown, longtime educator and expressed sympathy to his wife, Ruth Brown, who was a teacher at Glen Springs Elementary.
- Congratulated the Fans of the Arts on their Sixth Annual Musical Chairs event, a fundraiser to benefit the arts in our schools.

CITIZEN INPUT

Several members of the Alachua County Black History Task Force, a group concerned and committed to Black History being taught throughout the public school system, addressed the Board with comments/questions including:

- Want to be sure that the Florida state law is being implemented fully.
- Concerned about lack of teacher training.
- Are teachers being trained in Criss strategies?
- Not enough Black history is being taught.
- Not enough infusion into World History.
- Textbooks are available that include African American Studies.

Brief responses from Board members and Assistant Superintendent Karen Clarke and the Superintendent were provided. Dr. Roberts stated that he intends to schedule a meeting with the Task Force, to hold further discussion.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Griffin

Seconded by Mrs. Roy

Moved the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve the Consent Agenda as described in items 1-12, minus Item 6, Budget Amendments. (pulled for separate comment/discussion.)

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

Dr. Paulson agreed to meet with Assistant Superintendent Scott Ward and Budget Director Alex Rella to go over Dr. Paulson’s questions/comments, which were related to another item, not Item H.6.

Motion by Dr. Paulson Seconded by Mr. Hyatt

Moved to approve Consent Agenda Item 6, Budget Amendments. (pulled for separate comment/discussion.)

The question was called. Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

PROPOSED 2015-16  
SCHOOL CALENDAR

Motion by Mrs. Roy Seconded by Mr. Hyatt

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the Proposed 2015-16 School Calendar as presented.

Mrs. Griffin expressed concern about students being off the whole week of Thanksgiving. She hopes this can be changed on a future calendar, since that seems best for most students and families.

The question was called. Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

CITIZEN INPUT

There was no citizen input.

BOARD MEMBER/  
SUPERINTENDENT  
REQUESTS

Mrs. Roy:

- Believes that some of the strategies included in the recent suicide prevention presentation by Alachua County Commissioner Robert "Hutch" Hutchinson can be easily incorporated into the district's plan.
- Requested that an Executive Session be scheduled.
- Requested a workshop be scheduled on development of the annual budget.
- Stated that even at the time she taught at Buchholz, Eastside, and Gainesville High Schools more than twenty years ago, Black History was infused into her curriculum areas.

Mrs. Griffin:

- Was glad to see that additional bus drivers have been hired.
- Was pleased that the SFHS cafeteria is being remodeled.

Dr. Paulson stated that an Executive Session is needed.

Mrs. Roy commented that the curriculum has been infused with Black History, perhaps not to the Task Force's satisfaction, but the district has been diligent, honest, ethical and considerate about all student populations.

Dr. McNealy requested another Board Retreat be held.

Dr. Paulson noted that the Financial Review report recommended that priorities be incorporated into the Strategic Plan. Dr. Roberts felt the Budget Workshop would be a place to discuss it.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.